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Programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Jan **Jaremczuk** (Poland)

I. Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 17 September 1999, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 7th, 12th and 13th meeting, on 15, 20 and 22 October 1999. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the question are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/54/SR.7, 12 and 13).

3. For its consideration of the question, the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the Development Account: modalities for operating the Account (A/53/945) and the related thirteenth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/53/7/Add.12).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.5/54/L.7 and A/C.5/54/L.11 and Rev.1

4. At its 7th meeting, on 15 October, the representative of Guyana (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Development Account" (A/C.5/54/L.7) which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 52/12 B of 19 December 1997 and 52/220 and 52/221 A of 22 December 1997,

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"*Reaffirming* its resolutions 52/235 of 26 June 1998, 53/220 A of 7 April 1999 and 53/220 B of 8 June 1999,

"*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General on the Development Account and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

"*Reaffirming* its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986,

"*Reaffirming also* the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation,

"1. *Decides* to establish a special multi-year account for supplementary development activities based on the priority objectives of the programmes of the approved medium-term plan;

"2. *Also decides* that the cumulative savings achieved as a result of efficiency measures that are redeployed from other budget sections to the section relating to the Development Account with prior approval of the General Assembly shall form the maintenance base for this section in subsequent programme budgets;

"3. *Reaffirms* that the Development Account should be operated strictly in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation;

"4. *Emphasizes* that the efficiency measures should not lead to a process of budgetary reduction and should not result in the involuntary separation of staff;

"5. *Also emphasizes* that the efficiency measures should not adversely affect the full implementation of all mandated programmes and activities;

"6. *Decides* to keep the implementation of the Development Account under review and requests the Secretary-General to submit reports in accordance with the relevant regulations and rules."

5. At the 12th meeting, on 20 October, the representative of Uganda coordinator of informal consultations on this question, made a statement and, on behalf of the Chairman, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Development Account" (A/C.5/54/L.11) which read:

"*The General Assembly,*

"*Recalling* its resolutions 52/12 B of 19 December 1997 and 52/220 and 52/221 A of 22 December 1997,

"*Reaffirming* its resolutions 52/235 of 26 June 1998, 53/220 A of 7 April 1999 and 53/220 B of 8 June 1999,

"*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General on the Development Account and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

"*Reaffirming* its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986,

"*Reaffirming also* the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation,

"1. *Decides* to establish a special multi-year account for supplementary development activities based on the priority objectives of the programmes of the approved medium-term plan;

"2. *Emphasizes* that the efficiency measures and the transfer of savings therefrom should not lead to a process of budgetary reduction and should not result in the involuntary separation of staff;

"3. *Also emphasizes* that the efficiency measures and the redeployment of savings to the Development Account should not adversely affect the full implementation of all mandated programmes and activities;

"4. *Also decides* that savings to be achieved as a result of the efficiency measures could be identified in the context of budget performance reports and shall be transferred to the Development Account section with the prior approval of the General Assembly;

"5. *Further decides* that all savings transferred to the Development Account section shall form the maintenance base for that section in future proposed programme budgets;

"6. *Reaffirms* that the Development Account should be operated strictly in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation;

"7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that all budget proposals are fully commensurate with the related mandates in order to ensure their full and effective implementation;

"8. *Decides* to keep the implementation of the Development Account under review and requests the Secretary-General to submit reports in accordance with the relevant regulations and rules."

6. At the same meeting, the representative of Guyana (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China) made a statement (see A/C.5/54/SR.12).

7. Also at the same meeting, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee agreed to continue holding further informal consultations on this question.

8. At its 13th meeting, on 22 October, the representative of Uganda coordinator of informal consultations on this question, on behalf of the Chairman, made a statement and introduced a revised draft resolution entitled "Development Account" (A/C.5/54/L.11/Rev.1), which incorporated the following changes:

(a) In operative paragraph 4, the word "Also" was deleted;

(b) Operative paragraph 5 was reworded to read:

"*Also decides* that the savings transferred to the Development Account section in accordance with paragraph 4 above shall form the maintenance base for that section in future proposed programme budgets;"

9. At the same meeting, in light of the statement made by the representative of Uganda coordinator of informal consultations on this question, the representative of Guyana (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), made a statement and withdrew draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.7.

10. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted revised draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.11/Rev.1 without a vote (see para. 12).

11. Following the adoption of the revised draft resolution, statements in explanation of position were made by the representatives of Finland (on behalf of States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Japan, Cuba, New Zealand (on behalf of Canada, Australia and New Zealand), Pakistan and the United States of America (see A/C.5/54/SR.13).

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

12. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 52/12 B of 19 December 1997 and 52/220 and 52/221 A of 22 December 1997,

Reaffirming its resolutions 52/235 of 26 June 1998, 53/220 A of 7 April 1999 and 53/220 B of 8 June 1999,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the Development Account[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

Reaffirming its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986,

Reaffirming also the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation,

1. *Decides* to establish a special multi-year account for supplementary development activities based on the priority objectives of the programmes of the approved medium-term plan;

2. *Emphasizes* that the efficiency measures and the transfer of savings therefrom should not lead to a process of budgetary reduction and should not result in the involuntary separation of staff;

3. *Also emphasizes* that the efficiency measures and the redeployment of savings to the Development Account should not adversely affect the full implementation of all mandated programmes and activities;

4. *Decides* that savings to be achieved as a result of the efficiency measures could be identified in the context of budget performance reports and shall be transferred to the Development Account section with the prior approval of the General Assembly;

5. *Also decides* that the savings transferred to the Development Account section in accordance with paragraph 4 above shall form the maintenance base for that section in future proposed programme budgets;

6. *Reaffirms* that the Development Account should be operated strictly in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation;

[1] A/53/945.

[2] A/53/7/Add 12

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that all budget proposals are fully commensurate with the related mandates in order to ensure their full and effective implementation;

8. *Decides* to keep the implementation of the Development Account under review, and requests the Secretary-General to submit reports in accordance with the relevant regulations and rules.